

Message Text

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43

ACTION FMC-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-06 EA-11

DRC-01 L-03 /066 W

----- 053261

R 082121Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2322

UNCLAS CARACAS 00215

PASS TO: R. GAGE, MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, VE

SUBJECT: PORT DETENTION SURCHARGES

REF: STATE 1611

1. PUERTO CABELLO IS CONGESTED. ON JANUARY 7, EIGHTEEN SHIPS BERTHED, OF WHICH FOURTEEN WORKING AND FOUR IDLE; THREE AT ANCHOR AWAITING BERTHS.

2. CONDITIONS PRESENTLY EXISTING PUERTO CABELLO, AND TO LESSER DEGREE LA GUAIRA, COMMONLY EXPERIENCED THIS TIME OF YEAR DUE INFLUX IMPORTS AND ABOVE NORMAL ABSENTEEISM WITH RESULTANT SLOW-DOWN PRODUCTION AND BACKLOG. CONSENSUS HERE IS THAT CONGESTION SHOULD CLEAR BY END JANUARY OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

3. DIFFERENCES IN SURCHARGES SOUTHBOUND (VENEZUELAN IMPORTS) CARGO AND NORTHBOUND (VENEZUELAN EXPORTS) CARGO DUE SIMPLY TO DIFFERENCES QUANTITIES INVOLVED. IMPORTS FAR EXCEED EXPORTS RESULTING NUMBER SHIPS CALLING FOR DISCHARGE CARGOES FAR GREATER THAN THAT CALLING FOR LOADING. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, CONGESTION CAUSED PRIMARILY BY VESSELS CARRYING CARGOES TO VENEZUELA. UNAVAILABILITY OF LABOR AND EQUIPMENT RESULTS DELAYS LOADING. IN MANY CASES, VESSELS REFUSE LOAD CARGOES RATHER THAN RISK WHAT

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THEY FEEL UNREASONABLE DELAYS IN THEIR DEPARTURES, THEREBY

EFFECTING SCHEDULES. WHERE VESSELS ARE DELAYED IN LOADING, COMPANIES FEEL JUSTIFIED IN PASSING ON SOME OF THE EXPENSES CAUSED BY DELAY. THIS EXPLANATION GIVEN FOR DIFFERENCES IN LEVELS OF SOUTHBOUND AND NORTHBOUND SURCHARGES.

4. ACCORDING TO SHIPPING INDUSTRY SPOKESMEN, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 7, CARGOES MOVING BETWEEN EUROPE AND VENEZUELA ARE SUBJECT TO THE SAME LEVEL CONGESTION SURCHARGE AS THAT PROPOSED BY THE U.S. ATLANTIC AND GULF NETHERLANDS ANTILLES CONFERENCE. ALSO, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 7, CARGOES MOVING BETWEEN JAPAN AND VENEZUELA ARE SUBJECT TO A TON WEIGHT OR MEASUREMENT CONGESTION SURCHARGE OF EITHER DLRS 3.00 OR DLRS 3.40 ON IMPORTS AND EITHER DLRS 1.00 OR DLRS 1.40 ON EXPORTS. THERE IS SOME DISAGREEMENT AS TO THE EXACT LEVEL OF THE JAPAN/VENEZUELA SURCHARGE AND EVEN DISAGREEMENT AS TO WHETHER IT EXISTS AT ALL.
MCCLINTOCK

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